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Sixty-sixth
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

HOUSE BILL NO. 1538

Introduced by

Representatives Hoverson, Johnston, K. Koppelman, Paulson, Simons

A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new section to chapter 15.1-21 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the freedom to teach students the strengths and weaknesses of scientific theories and controversies.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

SECTION 1. A new section to chapter 15.1-21 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and enacted as follows:

Freedom to teach strengths and weaknesses of scientific theories and controversies.

The state board of public school education, superintendent of public instruction, board of a school district, each public school, administrators, teachers, and ancillary staff:

1. May encourage students to explore scientific questions, learn about scientific evidence, and develop critical thinking skills regarding controversial issues;

2. May help students understand, analyze, critique, and review the scientific strengths and weaknesses of existing scientific theories and controversies; and

3. May not prohibit teachers from helping students understand, analyze, critique, and review the scientific strengths and weaknesses of existing scientific theories and controversies.